



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## Minutes 08/06/2007

FINAL Minutes of the Symmes Neighborhood Advisory Committee  
August 6, 2007, Jefferson Cutter House

Present: Joseph A. Curro, Jr. (Chair), Greg Jackmauh, Lisa Lazarczyk  
Absent: Alfonso Sira

The meeting was called to order by the chair shortly after 7 pm.

The chair gave a quick update on the process of selecting a Designated Town Representative, explaining that there was a single response to the Town's recent Request for Proposals from PMA, the firm that represented the Town on the Dallin School and Park Circle Fire Station rebuild projects.

The chair then recognized Planning Director Kevin O'Brien, who introduced Kevin Nigro of PMA, before excusing himself to attend the concurrent meeting of the Arlington Redevelopment Board. Mr. Nigro said a few words about himself, indicating that he has been working in Arlington for over three years on projects that are situated very close to surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to Arlington, Mr. Nigro has worked on a \$56 million high school project in Swampscott.

Following Mr. Nigro's remarks, the chair recognized Jake Upton and Sandi Wolchansky of Symmes Redevelopment Associates, who -- along with their team -- reviewed their plans for moving forward with the project, noting that this was the first meeting with the SNAC since taking title to the Symmes land.

A short briefing was provided by Mark Theriault of SRA's construction partner, JPI Construction. Mr. Theriault indicated that all subcontractors will be bound by the Neighborhood Protection Plan governing the project. Ms. Wolchansky and Mr. Upton will be fairly well removed from the construction process.

Blackstone Consulting was introduced as the new environmental consultant for the project. Blackstone replaces McPhail for many aspects of this work, due to the requirement of financiers that environmental consultants be drawn from an approved list. McPhail continues as the geotechnical consultant for the project.

Communications plans were discussed, including the construction kick-off meeting scheduled for Monday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Arlington Senior Center. SRA stated that they planned to unveil a web site at <http://www.symmesconstruction.com/> as a communications vehicle, which would list DTR contact info, as well as contact info for SRA's primary points of contact: Mr. Theriault and Ms. Wolchansky. Ms. Wolchansky also explained that a 24-hour hotline would soon be made operational. Project information boards at each entrance to the project will be updated.

A tentative construction plan was shared with the committee. This plan showed -- among other things -- the medical office building as Phase 4, due to the lack of a tenant at this time. Residential construction is slated to begin with Townhouse E.

SRA described pre-construction activities, including rodent and pest control; erosion control; and erection of perimeter fencing. For pest control, SRA has selected Waltham Services, which will utilize tamper-proof rodenticide stations. Any disturbed buffer areas will be hydroseeded.

Blackstone Consulting explained that they do not do abatement work directly, but that they were overseeing bids to remove asbestos and other chemical materials from the hospital site. Blackstone's role will be to monitor this activity.

There was a discussion of pre-demolition surveys, utilizing video documentation, to be performed for homes on a list to be worked out by the DTR and the geotechnical engineer. It was noted that there are requirements for both pre-demolition and pre-blasting surveys. Blasting will be scheduled to complete before 4 p.m. each day, with no weekend activity. Discussion of blasting and demolition included questions from several neighbors to the Symmes site.

It was explained that demolition was anticipated to take place over a four-month period for the main hospital and nurses' buildings combined. There will be an attempt to post two-week lookahead construction schedules going forward.

Committee member Greg Jackmauh asked a question about the need for demolition permits. SRA replied that this would be required, and that a foundation permit would be pulled before a building permit.

The chair reiterated to neighbors in attendance the need to fill several SNAC vacancies, including his own, as he does not intend to apply for a renewal when his term expires at the end of October.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:00 p.m.